

ARIZONA'S ELECTRONIC VOTER REGISTRATION PROCESAM: 48 EZ VOTER

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EZ Voter started in July of 2002. EZ Voter is Arizona's electronic voter registration program. The EZ Voter program enables citizens with an Arizona driver license or identification card to register to vote electronically in one of two ways. The first is over the Internet. The citizen simply enters in their unique information to authenticate and provides other voter registration information. The information provided by the citizen is matched instantly with a motor vehicle record. The demographic information from the motor vehicle record along with the digitized signature from the driver license are passed in real time to the Secretary of State's (SoS) office and become an official voter registration. The EZ Voter Internet application can be performed in English or Spanish and is accessed either through the Arizona Secretary of State's or Arizona Motor Vehicle Division's websites. The second method is at a Motor Vehicle Office. A customer can indicate on their Driver License Application that they wish to register to vote. This information is entered into the Arizona Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) driver license system and is transferred electronically along with the digitized signature to the statewide voter registration system. EZ Voter was precleared by the US Department of Justice in May of 2002 and available to the public in July of that same year.

The program was created to help improve the voting process in Arizona by increasing voter registration and improving the quality of the voter registration roll. Arizona is one of the fastest growing and most culturally diverse states in the nation.

Arizona was the first state to have a real time online voter registration system. The EZ Voter system is integrated with Arizona's comprehensive statewide voter registration system. The State of Washington has recently implemented a system modeled after Arizona. Nevada is currently building a system similar to Arizona. California has modeled legislation to enable electronic voter registration based on Arizona's program. Many other states have inquired about Arizona's program.

One of the common problems with a paper based voter registration system is that forms can be lost in the mail. Another problem is that groups conducting voter registration drives may not turn the forms into the proper agency for a period of time, delaying when the citizen receives acknowledgement that they are properly registered. A third problem is the accuracy of the data since it needs to be data entered from a paper application into a voter registration system. EZ Voter solved all three of these serious problems.

Many states offer the ability to print a registration form, but the form must be filled out by hand and sent to the proper agency. EZ Voter is instant and completely electronic. The solution is easily transferable to any other jurisdictions. Most states have digitized photos and signatures on their driver licenses, so this solution is available to those jurisdictions.

Having a properly functioning voter registration system is necessary to reduce disenfranchisement and increase confidence in the election system. The March 2002 Election Reform Briefing on Statewide Voter Registration Databases stated that "the U.S. Census estimates that in 2000, 7.4 percent of 40 million registered voters did not vote because of registration problems". **An efficient and effective voter registration system will help protect against voter fraud.** Arizona set out to simplify the voter registration process and make it more accessible to the voters.

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Between 60% and 70% of the voter registrations processed in Arizona now are processed electronically through EZ Voter. EZ Voter can be viewed as a natural extension of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993. The motor vehicle agencies and voter registration have long been linked together; Arizona has taken this partnership to another level.

The EZ Voter program provided a new and creative approach to the problem of voter accessibility to voter registration. This was the first system of its kind in the country that provides a real electronic voter registration system with the statewide voter registration requirements of HAVA. The creative solution is one that is very transferable to other states since most of the components exist in all jurisdictions. E-Government and information technology offer a great opportunity to dramatically transform the way citizens interact with Government. The creative solution involved innovative thinking, government agency integration and cooperation, legislation, technology and measurements and statistics.

Innovative Thinking - The comprehensive approach to EZ Voter involved many creative ideas. The first was the use of the digitized signature on file with the MVD in use with an electronic voter registration system. The county recorders need an image of a signature that can be used for signature comparisons. Therefore, to do real electronic voter registration, the biggest hurdle was how to get an image of a signature over a ubiquitous channel such as the Internet. The solution was to utilize the MVD database that holds the digitized signature when processing a voter registration through EZ Voter. Almost all states in the union have digitized photos and signatures on their driver licenses so this solution is available to all of those states. When a citizen uses EZ Voter, their demographic information is matched to their driver license record and their digitized signature is pulled from the MVD database to complete the voter registration online. Once the transaction is completed, the voter registration is officially recorded. Gartner Consulting in their report FT-17-8447 stated, "Arizona's EZ Voter Registration uses the state's driver's license database to make online registration simple to implement. The program offers a model other states can follow." Gartner Consulting also said, "Arizona's solution to a tricky problem may increase the appeal of online registration. Rather than create a whole new system from scratch, EZ Voter Registration leverages the process MVD uses to verify identities for driver licenses."

The EZ Voter program was also coupled with other successful e-Government programs for proper service placement. Just as product placement is important for merchandise, the proper placement of the service can affect the adoption rate by citizens. A link to the EZ Voter application is located on the SoS home page and on the Motor Vehicle Divisions e-Government home page. The EZ Voter application is embedded into other motor vehicle e-Government applications such as vehicle renewal and duplicate driver license. When a customer renews their vehicle registration, obtains a duplicate driver license, or changes their address over the Internet, they are offered the opportunity within that e-Government application to register to vote. In addition, citizens can perform an EZ Voter registration at 31 different self-service sites around the state in two languages, making it very easy and accessible to all.

Government Agency Integration and Cooperation - The most successful e-Government projects are the result of cooperation and successful alliances with other government entities. The VRAZ project involves many other government entities besides the Secretary of State's office including the 15 Arizona County Recorder offices, the Arizona Motor Vehicle Division, the Arizona Department of Health Services, The Arizona Department of Administration, the State and Federal courts, and the Social Security Administration. Well over a thousand hours were spent by the Secretary of State's office to ensure that other entities were well informed, expectations were well documented, and relationships were strong in order to reduce resistance and to build a successful application.

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MONTANA VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION

Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required. If you do not provide all of the required information, your application to register to vote will not be complete. UNDER FEDERAL AND/OR STATE LAW ALL ELECTORS MUST PRESENT ID WHEN VOTING. to vote will not be complete. UNDER FEDERAL AND/OR STATE LAW ALL ELECTORS MUST PRESENT ID WHE Please type or print clearly using black or blue ink. COMPLETE FORM AND SUBMIT TO COUNTY ELECTION OFFICE.

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